

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TU, GR, US

SUBJECT: SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING ON
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA)

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OPEN HEARING ON
TURKISH DCA SEPT 15 PROVIDED ADMINISTRATION OPPORTUNITY
TO PRESENT STRONG CASE FOR APPROVAL OF DCA. PRESENT FOR
SFRC WERE SENATORS SPARKMAN, CASE, PELL, JAVITS AND CLARK.
UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, ASST SECY DOD ELLSWORTH, ASST SECY
EUR HARTMAN AND AMBASSADOR MACOMBER APPEARED AS ADMINIS-
TRATION WITNESSES.

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2. TWO-AND-HALF HOUR HEARING WAS CONDUCTED IN VERY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE. ONLY NEGATIVE STATEMENT (TRANSMITTED BY USIS WIRELESS FILE) WAS INTRODUCED BY SEN. PELL, WHOSE EARLY DEPARTURE ELIMINATED POSSIBILITY OF HIS POSING HOSTILE QUESTIONS. SEN. PELL NOTED AN AP STORY THAT TURKS HAD MOVED PERSHING MISSILES FROM SOVIET BORDER AREA TO AEGEAN COAST TO TARGET AGAINST GREEK ISLANDS. ELLSWORTH TESTIFIED LATER IN HEARING THAT TURKS HAD NO PERSHING AND THAT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION THAT THEY HAD MOVED THEIR HONEST JOHN MISSILES TO AEGEAN AREA.

3. HABIB AND ELLSWORTH READ STATEMENTS INTO RECORD (TRANSMITTED VIA USIS WIRELESS FILE). AT THE REQUEST OF CHAIRMAN SPARKMAN, MACOMBER COMMENTED ON DANGERS OF TURKEY MOVING AWAY FROM NATO AND THE WEST, AND GROWING RISKS OF DELAY ON DCA. HARTMAN ADDED BACKGROUND ON GREEK DCA AND IMPORTANCE OF BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY TO ALLIANCE. SEN. CASE PRAISED WITNESSES FOR BRIEFING. HE ASKED ELLSWORTH IF GEN. HAIG SHARED VIEWS ABOUT TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND WAS TOLD, "ABSOLUTELY". JAVITS ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED FROM WITNESSES REASSURANCES THAT ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IMPORTANCE OF GREECE. JAVITS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF USG BEING EVEN-HANDED WITH BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. CASE POINTED OUT THAT KEEPING TURKEY IN NATO IS IN THE INTEREST OF GREECE.

4. HABIB, IN RESPONSE TO SPARKMAN'S QUESTION, BRIEFED THE COMMITTEE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AND OFFERED TO PROVIDE COPIES OF AUG 25 UNSC RESOLUTION AND INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE STATEMENT OF SEPT 11.

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